constituted a Group of Ministers (Gom) to, *inter alia,* look into the matter. The Gom constituted earlier had held discussions with Trade Unions.

Coal Mines Nationalisation (Amendment) Bill

2395. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have prepared a draft Coal Mines Nationalisation (Amendment) Bill to facilitate private participation in the coal sector which enables Government to give coal blocks to private companies for captive mining;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed amendment;

(c) whether consultations have been made with the representatives concerned in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the consultations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The Department of Coal has introduced a Bill, namely the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000 in the Rajya Sabha on 24.04.2000 to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973. This Bill *inter alia,* seeks to allow a company, not including a foreign company, coal mining either for own consumption, sale or for any other purpose in accordance with the prospecting licenss or mining lease or sub-lease.

(c) and (d) the Standing Committee on Energy which considered and recommended the Bill to Parliament held wide ranging consultations with representatives of all stake holders. However, the Bill has been opposed by the Trade Unions. The Government had constituted a Group of Ministers (Gom) on coal to, *inter alia,* look into the matter. The Gom consitituted earlier had held discussions with the representatives of the Trade Unions.

Use of obsolete technology in mining

2396. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rs. 4000 crores of FDI has been approved in the mining sector, recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to obsolete technology used by Indian miners, the country has been deficient in high-value minerals; and

(d) the total mineral production of the country during the last 3 years; year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), in consultation with the Department of Mines, has so far approved 73 proposals of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the mining sector. The likely investment in these cases will be about Rs. 4,044 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir. The geological setting and metallogenetic history of India is similar to mineral rich Australia, South Africa and Antarctica. However, due to low investment and lack of advanced state-of-the-art technology for detailed exploration, deep-seated high value minerals have not yet been fully discovered.

(d) The value of total mineral production of the country (excluding atomic minerals) during the last three years is as follows:—

Year	2001-2002	2002-2003 (Provisional)	2003-2004 (Provisional)
Value (in Rs. crores)	60,832	63,540	66.308

Coking coal reserves

2397. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that good quality coking coal reserve have depleted and the washeries are not getting coal of superior quality in desired quantity to yield clean coal: and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Extractable reserves of